## **Straight From The Supe**

Richland One Superintendent Dr. Craig Witherspoon's Official Blog

## **Cause for Celebration**

○ February 13, 2016 Uncategorized

On Thursday, Richland One celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Challenger Learning Center. The center, located adjacent to the W.A. Perry Middle School on Barhamville Road, serves as a hands-on learning site for aerospace flight simulations and related activities. It is one of 40 such centers across the country and the only one of its kind in South Carolina.

The Challenger Learning Center is truly a point of pride for the district, especially because NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden, Jr. is a graduate of C.A. Johnson High School and Challenger 51-L crew member Dr. Ron McNair was a South Carolina native.

Celebrating our students' accomplishments as a part of the Challenger Learning Center's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary was quite extraordinary. Students from W.J. Keenan High School were recognized for winning the space flight experiments program competition and the USC McNair Center's engineering contest. Kudos to the students and to Mrs. Kirstin Bullington, their science and engineering teacher.

The celebration helped to make the connection between the importance of what happens in the classroom and being immersed in real-world activities to the possibilities that exist far away. Thanks to Dr. Carolyn Donelan, the center's lead flight director, and her staff for helping our students make these most important connections.



## **Appreciating Our New Teachers**

○ February 5, 2016 Uncategorized

This week, we held the second of three appreciation events for our new teachers. This particular event was tweaked because I wanted to hold it in a smaller venue not only to celebrate and show our appreciation for our new teachers, but also to give them an opportunity to share with us at the same time.

The teaching profession is not an easy one. It's giving of one's self to impart knowledge and skills to all of the students that enter our schools and classrooms. This is done regardless of what students have faced prior to coming in the door. It is passion, commitment and so much more! Teaching is one of the most important professions, as all future roads lead through education. That said, our teachers, new and veteran, are to be congratulated.